

**West Virginia Legislature
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**FINAL REPORT
to
Joint Committee on Government and Finance
2014 - 2015 Interims**

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The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee met each month during the 2014-2015 period beginning in May 2014 to discuss and study agriculture and rural development issues. The topics assigned to the committee by the Joint Committee on Government and Finance were as follows:

**HCR141 - Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance to undertake a study of genetically modified foods
SCR42 - Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study farmers market vendors**

SCR79 - Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study cottage food industries and small farms

The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee **REPORTS** as follows:

MAY 2014

The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee met on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. Kelly Crane, Executive Director, Farmers Market Association, discussed farmer's market vendor's issues with permitting. Steve Coleman, Vice President, WV Farmer's Market Association, discussed equalizing the farmer's market vendor's burdens statewide. Brandon Holmes, Program Director, West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition, discussed the regulation of the markets. Elizabeth Spellman, Executive Director, West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition, discussed issues of the farmer's markets and worker's cooperatives. Alana Markle, representative of First Hand Coffee Cooperative, discussed issues of the farmer's markets and worker's cooperatives.

JUNE 2014

The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee met on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. Ann Goldberg, Director of Public Health, Bureau for Public Health, DHHR, discussed regulations, enforcement and inspections done by each local sanitarian with regard to farmer's markets. Brad Cochran, Environmental Health Services, DHHR, discussed agency position paper with regard to farmer's market permits. Lloyd White, Administrator, Marion County Health Department, discussed local inspections of farmer's markets.

AUGUST 2014

The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee met on Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 12:00 noon at the Bridgeport, West Virginia, Conference Center. Harry N. Boone, Jr., Ph.D., Professor and Chair of Agricultural and Extension Education, WVU Division of Resource Management; James McCormick, WV Department of Agriculture, Warriors and Veterans Project; Annie Hall, agriculture education teacher, Valley High School; J.D. Morris, agriculture student, Valley High School; and Matt Knopp, agriculture education teacher, South Harrison High School, discussed agricultural education initiatives in West Virginia.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2014

The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee took a tour on Wednesday, September 3, 2014 at the Beech Ridge Wind Farm and Plum Orchard facilities.

SEPTEMBER 2014

The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee met on Tuesday, September 9, 2014

at 5:00 p.m. Ken Semmens, Extension Specialist/Aquaculture, WVU, discussed aquaculture education. Teresa Halloran, Marketing Specialist, WV Department of Agriculture, discussed development of food producers throughout the state. Mike Nardella, Rainbow Head Farms, discussed fish farming in the state. Greg Butcher, Chair, WV Board of Aquaculture, discussed the committee's upcoming tour of Mountaineer Trout Farm and Mount Hope.

OCTOBER 2014

The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee met on Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at Mount Hope, West Virginia, to tour the water plant and artesian well. The committee then went to Mountaineer Trout Farm, Josephine, WV, to tour the facility. Wesley Groce, Jr. Manager, discussed the challenges associated with running the facility. Gary Redden of White Oak Quality Meats processes the trout for Mountaineer and discussed the challenges associated with licensing and maintaining a meat processing facility.

NOVEMBER 2014

The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee met on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. Rem Perkins, Perk Farms, discussed raw milk and organic dairy farms. Kelly Crane, WV Farmer's Market Association, discussed consignment farmer's markets. Lauren Kemp, Community Economic Development Corporation, Huntington, WV, discussed local food business programs and the Wild Ramp.

JANUARY 2015

The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. The Final Report will be presented to the Committee. The Committee will also be provided legislation addressing SCR42 - Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study farmers market vendors.

Your Committee **RECOMMENDS** the following legislation, **HB/SB Farmers Market Vendor Permits**, and that it continue to receive updates related to the Agriculture and Rural Development industry.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Ronald Miller, Chair
Senator Bob Williams, Vice Chair

Delegate David Walker, Chair
Del. Mike Manypenny, Vice Chair